

Application No. 10/813 153

Attorney Docket No. 2022D.PC

REMARKS

Claims 17-30 are pending. Claims 17-30 stand rejected. Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 21 (now canceled). Claims 21, 29 and 30 have been canceled. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced with these amendments.

Reply to the Rejection of Claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 29 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 29 and 30 have been canceled. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

Reply to the Rejection of Claims 17-20 and 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 17-20 and 22-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,264,933 to Bodelin *et al.* ("Bodelin").

The Examiner has indicated that claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 21 depends directly from independent claim 17. Independent claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 21, now cancelled. Although claim 21 was directed towards a 'preneutralized' polyurethane, independent claim 17 refers to simply a 'neutralized' polyurethane, which is consistent with the broader written description (see, Specification: p. 3, lines 19-21 indicating that the solubilized polyurethane or polyurethane mixture "may be sold in a neutralized form".)

Accordingly, the claims should be in form for allowance. Withdrawal, therefore, of the rejection of claims 17-20 and 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,264,933 to Bodelin is respectfully requested.

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It is believed that the above amendments and remarks overcome the Examiner's rejections of the claims. Withdrawal of those rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims is believed to be in order, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

21 July 2005

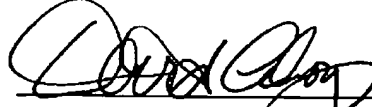
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